



Families Against Mandatory Minimums

Families Against Mandatory Minimums supports the efforts of the Michigan Department of Corrections, the House Judiciary Committee and the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Corrections to reduce the state's prison population in a way that retains public safety while releasing people, with proper support, back into the communities to become productive once again.

FAMM's commitment to supporting this process includes:

- **Fixing “pipeline” cases** by extending earlier parole eligibility to those individuals still being sentenced under the pre-2003 mandatory minimums (including those sentenced to lifetime probation).
- **Removing a barrier to parole eligibility for “650 Lifers”** by amending the list of serious crimes to exclude drug offenses with maximum penalties of 20 years or less.
- **Extending the 2003 early parole eligibility provisions** for those still serving disproportionately harsh sentences under the pre-2003 sentencing provisions, by changing consecutive (stacked) drug sentences to concurrent sentences (parole eligibility after serving the longest minimum sentence required after the 2003 reforms).
- **Extending early parole eligibility provisions** to those serving the lowest-level drug offenses.
- **Providing earlier parole eligibility for those serving life without parole** for a second over-50 gram drug offense.
- **Providing earlier parole eligibility** for individuals sentenced to very long indeterminate sentences (over 17.5 and 20 years) for “650” offenses committed between the 1998 and 2003 reforms.
- **Repealing the repeat drug offender language** that requires life without parole for a second drug offense over 50 grams.

FAMM is also engaged in finding funds to support the Michigan Prisoner Re-entry Initiative (MPRI), which will play the most important role in keeping people out of prison, especially those who need treatment for addiction.

FAMM extends its thanks to the House Judiciary Committee and Appropriations Subcommittee on Corrections for being asked to provide input on responsible sentencing policies. FAMM is also encouraged by interest in a sentencing policy oversight body, such as a Sentencing Commission, to examine the effectiveness of Michigan's policies and continually recommend changes to save the state's precious dollars and scientifically monitor sentencing policy.

FAMM looks forward to working with the legislature and stands ready to assist in any way.